

# THE TIMES OF INDIA

## 5 Trichy temples selected for FSSAI's Bhog certification

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Trichy: The food safety and standards authority of India (FSSAI) has identified five temples in Trichy district for the blissful hygienic offering to god (Bhog) certification scheme. The Ranganathaswami temple in Srirangam, Thayumanswami temple in Rockfort, Vekkaiammam temple in Woraiyur, Samayapuram Mariamman temple and Jambukeswarar temple in Thiruvanaikoil have been selected in the first phase. FSSAI said that the objective of the programme was to ensure cleanliness and quality in temple kitchens. By the first week of July 2021, the food safety department and a third-party agency authorised by the FSSAI will conduct a pre-audit study in the five temples. Quality of the kitchens, standards of food products used, conditions of vessels and water used for cooking will be inspected.

The temple managements will be given a minimum of 15 days period to carry out corrective measures. After a certain period, the same team will study the kitchens again for the post-audit survey to verify whether the corrections were implemented. Quality of water, location of washing vessels, reliability of cooking products and skills of temple cooks will also be assessed.

"We will upload the photographs and observations made in the official portal of Bhog and FSSAI. The third-party agency will also record their inference for grading the kitchens based on the two audits," Dr R Ramesh Babu, district food safety officer, said.

There will be a total of 120 marks for the Bhog survey. Temples securing more than 100 marks will get 5-star rating while temples securing 90-100 marks and 80-90 marks will get 4 and 3 stars respectively.

More temples will be inducted into the survey in a phased manner, FSSAI said.